

Using Strategies Together

Activity: Electronic Journal Responses

Purpose: To encourage students to use multiple strategies to understand and respond to text.

1. Provide your students with the electronic tools (computer with a word-processing and drawing program, or children's program such as Kid Pix) for organizing their written responses to text.
2. Show students examples of a thoughtful journal response to text. You can model this by reading part of a text aloud and then writing a response on a computer connected to a projector. Facilitate a discussion about the differences between a thoughtful response and a shallow response. You could also write a thoughtful response AND a shallow response and ask your students to explain which response is more interesting to read.
3. Journal responses can include reactions, questions, predictions, connections, evaluations, inferences or feelings and illustrations.
4. Encourage students to share their journal entries with classmate.
5. Some teachers post journal response prompts in their classroom.

Journal Response Prompts:

- What was your favorite part? Explain.
- How did this make you feel? Explain.
- What was important in the chapter? How do you know?
- Did your thinking change? Explain.
- What is something new that you learned? Explain.
- What connections did you make? Explain.
- What did it remind you of? Explain.
- Do you have any questions?

